

## Responses of Jason Booth

### SOS Collingwood Questions for Candidates for Collingwood Town Council

**1. In order of priority how would you rank the top five (5) priorities for the Town of Collingwood over the next 4 years?**

- *Bringing stability and professionalism back to Collingwood Town Hall.*
- *Creating a monthly platform for public to come and voice their concerns.*
- *Protecting the heritage and waterfront areas in Collingwood.*
- *Ensuring the build of a new hospital.*
- *Attracting new business to Collingwood.*

**2. Much has been said recently about the need for greater “Transparency” in how the Town conducts its affairs. What changes do you think are necessary to improve transparency in how Council, and Town staff, makes decisions?**

*I would work towards building better relations with the staff and residents of Collingwood by creating a monthly platform for the public to speak and raise their concerns. I would also look to the CAO and the Clerk for guidance through these matters.*

**3. What is your position on inter-governmental cooperation between the Town and its neighboring municipalities (e.g. the Town of Blue Mountains, Clearview and Wasaga Beach) and where and how do you think such cooperation would most benefit Collingwood?**

*I am a strong believer in municipalities working together for one common goal. We call all work together in regards to the hospital, airport and the ski industry along with one thing we all have in common is Georgian Bay.*

**4. Collingwood is under intense development pressure like it has never seen before in its history. What increased complexities and pressures do you think this presents, and how will you ensure the Town’s planning and building departments are equipped to address them? Are there any additional skills and experience you feel are required to manage these pressures?**

*I think the new council and staff needs to stop and have a look at the current building boom in Collingwood; I see the green space being swallowed up by houses and commercial buildings. If we don't act now...It might be too late.*

- 5. The mounting development pressure in the Town is generating a heightened level of community interest in the Town's planning and development process and decisions. Do you think the Town has adequate public consultation processes in place to deal with these decisions or do you think changes are required, and if so, what changes?**

*Like I mentioned earlier, I think we need a monthly platform for the public to come and speak to department heads and council about their issues outside of council meetings.*

- 6. The Town has recently approved a Waterfront Master Plan. What is your perspective on that plan? Do you think it contains the right priorities or are there changes you feel are required? Should its implementation be a priority for the new Council?**

*I am happy with what I have read and heard. I think Dean and his staff is doing a great job in regards to the master plans.*

- 7. Both the Waterfront Master Plan and the Town's Official Plan state that the protection of Collingwood's sensitive wetlands and shoreline areas are a top priority. How would you rate Collingwood's performance in protecting these areas to date? Do you think Collingwood currently has appropriate processes and controls in place to protect these areas (especially from development), or do you think improvements are required, and if so, what improvements?**

*I think we can take a better approach to protecting our waterfront and wetlands. I would be in favour of having a horticulturist on staff to help assist with maintaining the wetlands.*

*I think we need to make this a priority in town hall.*

- 8. What role do you see Collingwood's protected wetland and shoreline areas playing in your vision of the Town's social, cultural and economic future?**

*By protecting these areas we will help local wildlife by ensuring a food source, we will also benefit by having another attraction to the area being a protected wetland. We have a classroom at our fingertips, why not protect it.*

- 9. SOS Collingwood has raised specific concerns regarding the recent development proposal for the Living Waters/Bear Estate property. While the developer has asked the Town of defer consideration of the application until 2019, a decision on the matter will likely come before Council early in its next term. What are your views on that proposal and what level of public consultation and input do you feel needs to occur**

*I think we need to have some information sessions regarding this to allow more feedback. I personally would like to look at everything before I give my opinion.*